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Ahkello Witherspoon

James Ahkello Elec Witherspoon (born March 21, 1995) is an American football cornerback for the San Francisco 49ers of the National Football League (NFL). He played college football at Colorado.

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High school career

Witherspoon attended Christian Brothers High School in Sacramento, California. He played only one season of football in high school.^[1]

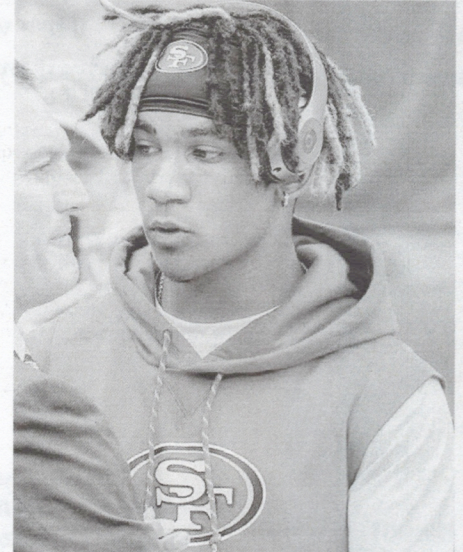
College career

Witherspoon played at Sacramento City College for one year before transferring to the University of Colorado Boulder.^{[2][3]} He played at Colorado from 2014 to 2016.^{[4][5]} During his career, he had 71 tackles and three interceptions.

Professional career

Coming out of Colorado, Witherspoon was projected to be a second or third round pick by the majority of NFL draft experts and scouts. He received an invitation the NFL Combine and

Ahkello Witherspoon



Witherspoon in 2017

No. 23 – San Francisco 49ers

Position: Cornerback

Personal information

Born: March 21, 1995
Sacramento, California

Height: 6 ft 3 in (1.91 m)

Weight: 195 lb (88 kg)

Career information

High school: Christian Brothers (Sacramento, California)

College: Colorado

NFL Draft: 2017 / Round: 3 / Pick: 66

Career history

- San Francisco 49ers (2017–present)

Roster status: Active

Career highlights and awards

- Second-team All-Pac-12 (2016)

performed nearly every combine drill, but opted to skip the bench press. On March 8, 2017, he chose to participate at Colorado's pro day long with, Chidobe Awuzie, Tedric Thompson, Sefo Liufau, and ten other prospects. All 32 NFL teams had team representatives and scouts present.^[6] He had five private workouts and visits with the Indianapolis Colts, New Orleans Saints, Philadelphia Eagles, San Francisco 49ers, and Seattle Seahawks.^[7] He was ranked the 14th best cornerback prospect in the draft by NFLDraftScout.com.^[8]

Career NFL statistics as of 2019

Total tackles: 97

Forced 1

fumbles:

Fumble 1

recoveries:

Pass 20

deflections:

Interceptions: 3

Defensive 1

touchdowns:

Player stats at **NFL.com** (<http://www.nfl.com/player/ahkellowittherspoon/2558157/profile>)

Pre-draft measurables

Height	Weight	Arm length	Hand size	40-yard dash	10-yd split	20-yd split	20-ss	3-cone	Vert jump	Broad
6 ft 2 ³ ⁴ in (1.90 m)	198 lb (90 kg)	33 in (0.84 m)	9 ⁷ ⁸ in (0.25 m)	4.45 s	1.53 s	2.57 s	4.13 s	6.93 s	40 ¹ ² in (1.03 m)	10 ft 7 in (3.23 m)
All values from NFL Combine ^{[9][8]}										

The San Francisco 49ers selected Witherspoon in the third round (66th overall) of the 2017 NFL Draft.^[10] He was the 11th cornerback selected in the 2017 NFL Draft.^[11]

2017 season: Rookie year

On May 12, 2017, the San Francisco 49ers signed Witherspoon to a four-year, \$3.88 million contract with a signing bonus of \$973,572.^[12]

Witherspoon competed with Dontae Johnson, Rashard Robinson, Keith Reaser, and K'Waun Williams throughout training camp for the starting cornerback position.^[13] Head coach Kyle Shanahan named him the fifth cornerback on the depth chart behind Dontae Johnson, Rashard Robinson, K'Waun Williams, and Asa Jackson.

Witherspoon was a healthy scratch for the first four games of the year. On October 8, 2017, he made his NFL debut and recorded one tackle during a 23-26 overtime road loss to the Indianapolis Colts.^[14] On October 29, 2017, Witherspoon earned his first NFL start and recorded three solo tackles, a pass deflection, and picked off a pass attempt by Carson Wentz for his first NFL interception as the 49ers lost to the Philadelphia Eagles by a score of 10-33.^[15] Witherspoon earned the start in place of Rashard Robinson who was benched after repetitive penalties and then traded to the New York Jets, two days later. Head coach Kyle Shanahan stated that Witherspoon would be the starting cornerback, opposite Dontae Johnson, moving forward and his development was one of the key factors in trading Robinson. Pro Football Focus graded Witherspoon the best player on the San Francisco 49ers during



Witherspoon in 2017

the matchup against the Eagles and credited him with allowing three receptions on eight targets.^[16] During a Week 16 matchup against the Jacksonville Jaguars, Witherspoon recorded his second interception of the year by picking off Blake Bortles as the 49ers won by a score of 44-33.^[17]

Witherspoon finished his rookie year playing in 12 games with nine starts, recording 32 tackles, seven passes defended, and two interceptions.^[18]

2018 season

Witherspoon entered the 2018 season as a starting cornerback alongside Richard Sherman. He played in 14 games with 12 starts, recording 37 tackles and four passes defended. On December 18, 2018, Witherspoon was placed on injured reserve due to a knee injury he suffered in Week 15 against the Seattle Seahawks.^[19]

2019 season

In the season-opener against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Witherspoon intercepted Jameis Winston and returned it 25 yards for a touchdown in the 31-17 road victory.^[20] He missed Weeks 5-10 with a foot injury but returned in Week 11 against the Arizona Cardinals.

Witherspoon finished the regular season with 28 tackles, a career-high nine pass deflections, and an interception returned for a touchdown. In the playoffs, he was demoted to a backup role to Emmanuel Moseley after a poor performance in the Divisional Round against the Minnesota Vikings. The 49ers went on to reach Super Bowl LIV, but lost 31-20 to the Kansas City Chiefs. Witherspoon finished the Super Bowl with one tackle.

NFL statistics

Regular season

Year	Team	Games		Tackles				Interceptions					Fumbles		
		GP	GS	Comb	Total	Ast	Sck	PD	Int	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD	FF	FR
2017	SF	12	9	32	28	4	0.0	7	2	42	21.0	23	0	1	0
2018	SF	14	12	37	30	7	0.0	4	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	1
2019	SF	10	8	28	24	4	0.0	9	1	25	25.0	25T	1	0	0
	Career	36	29	97	82	15	0.0	20	3	67	22.3	25T	1	1	1

Postseason

testing

Year	Team	Games		Tackles				Interceptions						Fumbles	
		GP	GS	Comb	Total	Ast	Sck	PD	Int	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD	FF	FR
2019	SF	3	1	4	2	2	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
	Career	3	1	4	2	2	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0

Personal life

Witherspoon is the grandson of bluesman Jimmy Witherspoon.^{[21][3]}

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External links

- San Francisco 49ers bio (<https://www.49ers.com/team/players-roster/ahkello-witherspoon/>)
 - Colorado Buffaloes bio (http://www.cubuffs.com/roster.aspx?rp_id=5392)
 - Media related to Ahkello Witherspoon at Wikimedia Commons
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